

A note on the Arachnida found on the Cocos-Keeling Islands, January—October, 1941

Order Scorpiones

Isometrus maculatus, De Geer.

Plentiful on all the larger islands. Local name, *Kala Jēng-king*. It does not appear to be seasonal. In the plantation it is found at the base of the fronds of the coconut palms, and under the piles of fallen nuts. On Pulo Selma and Pulo Tikus it occurs fairly freely in the buildings. It moves about mostly at night.

Order Pseudoscorpiones

About six examples of one species of pseudoscorpion were found in crevices in the bark of two dead trees (*Tournefortia argentea*, Linn.), on the west side of Pulo Panjang. No other examples were detected, although in all (on several islands), over sixty trees were examined. A single specimen of what was assumed to be a different species was taken from a cavity in dry, rotting timber on the lagoon side of Pulo Panjang; no other examples were seen.

Order Araneae

Examples of about twenty-three different spiders were collected, but, as in the case of the Pseudoscorpiones, the specimens did not survive the war.

Order Ixodidae

Two ticks were found to be plentiful in different parts of the group. One, known locally as *Kutu Burong*, is extremely common on North Keeling, but it does not normally occur on the main atoll. It is parasitic on the sea-birds breeding there, the principal hosts being the three species of *Sula* (*Sula sula rubripes*, *S. leucogaster* and *S. dactylatra*). The adult females reach a diameter of about 12 mm. They normally adhere to the skin of the feet, and in the groove where the gular skin runs up to the ramus of the mandible. Young ones, up to 2-3 mm. in diameter, are abundant all over the island. They are not particular about the nature of their host, and after a night spent on North Keeling it takes one about a week to get rid of them. The other tick that has reached the islands is one of the Buffalo

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Ticks, known locally as *Kutu Anjing*. It is very plentiful on Pulo Tikus. It is not normally seen apart from its host, but all the dogs on the island are constantly infected with it, and, at certain periods of the year, have to be de-ticked daily. It does not appear to attack any other local animals.

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